

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PRETOR 04432 191428Z

50

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 ORM-02 SCCT-01 /081 W

----- 075986

R 191323Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3204

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN UNN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 4432

E.O. 11652: HQXA

TAGS: AO, PINS

SUBJECT: ANGOLA IN SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS

REF: PRETORIA 4392 NOTAL

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. SAG SENSITIVITY TO TREATMENT OF NEWS ON ANGOLA WAS UNDER-
LINED WHEN FON MIN MULLER REPORTEDRQ TOLD ROYAL INSTITUTE OF
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PRETOR 04432 191428Z

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS IN LONDON NOV. 18 THAT "IT IS

THOUGHT ADVISABLE NOT TO ALLOW OUR NEWSPAPERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS SPECULATION (ABOUT SOUTH AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA)". MULLER REPORTEDLY SAID HE COULD CONFIRM RUMORS OF SOUTH AFRICAN PRESENCE IN THAT TROOPS WERE PROTECTING THE CUNENE RIVER IRRIGATION AND HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT AREAS IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO SOUTH WEST AFRICAN BORDER, AND SA AIRCRAFT HAD BEEN USED TO TRANSPORT REFUGEES OUT OF ANGOLA.

2. RAND DAILY MAIL CARRIED ANOTHER BLANK SPACE NOV. 18 UNDER BOLD HEADLINES "MORE SA SERVICEMEN KILLED IN ACTION" NOTING THAT IT WAS BELIEVED THAT SEVERAL, PERHAPS AS MANY AS EIGHT, SA SOLDIERS HAD BEEN KILLED IN ACTION ON OR ABOUT NOV. 13, BUT THAT DEFENSE AUTHORITIES HAD PROHIBITED PUBLICATION OF THE NEWS UNTIL SOMETIME LATER THAT DAY. AFTERNOON STAR THEN CARRIED ARTICLE INCLUDING DEFENSE RELEASE STATING THAT THREE HAD BEEN KILLED IN A BORDER SKIRMISH WITH SWAPO TERRORISTS, AND NOTING THAT SINCE NEWS HAD FIRST COME INTO POSSESSION OF STAR, AUTHORITIES HAD DECLINED TO ALLOW MORNING NEWSPAPERS TO CARRY IT UNTIL STAR HAD PUBLISHED.

3. REVIEWING THIS PRESS TUFF IN A BITTER EDITORIAL NOV. 19, RAND DAILY MAIL SAID DEFENSE DEPARTMENT'S DELAY IN RELEASING INFORMATION WAS FRIVOLOUS AND DISMAYING. "SOUTH AFRICAN MOVING INTO TIMES OF GREAT TENSION. GUERRILLA WARFARE ON OUR BORDERS NOW COMMONPLACE. ANOTHER VIETNAM THREATENS IN ANGOLA. MIN DEF HIMSELF HAS WARNED OF INCREASING GUERRILLA PRESSURE ON COUNTRY." MAIL SAID THAT MAINTAINING PUBLIC MORALE IS VITAL, AND REQUIRES A FLOW OF TIMELY AND ACCURATE INFORMATION TO PREVENT RUMORS.

4. IN ANOTHER ARTICLE, MAIL REPORTED THAT MIN DEF BOTHA WAS GREATLY CONCERNED ABOUT AGREEMENT WITH PRESS WHICH STIPULATED THAT NOTHING PERTAINING TO DEFENSE WOULD BE PUBLISHED WITHOUT PRIOR CLEARANCE BY MINISTER OR DESIGNATED DEPUTY. DEFENSE SPOKESMAN SAID RAND DAILY MAIL, NATAL MERCURY AND CAPE TIMES HAD ALL RECENTLY PUBLISHED MATERIAL IN APPARENT CONTRAVENTION OF AGREEMENT, INCLUDING SPECULATED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PRETOR 04432 191428Z

TION ON MOVEMENT OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY. MAIL NOTED THAT TWO JOHANNESBURG AFRIKAANS LANGUAGE PAPERS, VATERLAND AND TRANSVALER, HAD BOTH CARRIED NEWS OF MILITARY DEATHS MORNING 18TH BEFORE DEFENSE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT RELEASED BUT HAD NOT DRAWN OFFICIAL CRITICISM, AND THAT EASTERN PROVINCE HERALD IN PORT ELIZABETH HAD ALSO PUBLISHED SIMILAR NEWS. END UNCLASSIFIED.

BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

5. COMMENT: ATTRIBUTION OF THESE LAST THREE MILITARY DEATHS TO SWAPO ACTION IN BORDER AREA GOES A BIT BEYOND THE EARLIER RELEASE REPORTING ONE DEATH AS HAVING OCCURRED IN "THE OPERATIONAL ZONE", BUT IS UNCONVINCING IN ITS LACK OF DETAIL. THERE IS GROWING INCLINATION TO BELIEVE THE REPORTS FROM ABROAD THAT SOUTH AFRICAN INVOLVMENT IN ANGOLA EXTENDS WELL BEYOND THE CUNENE, AND THAT DEATHS SUCH AS THESE ARE THE PRICE THAT MUST BE PAID FOR RESISTING THE SOVIET-BACKED MPLA. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.
BOWDLER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, INTERVENTION, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, INDEPENDENCE, ALLEGATIONS, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchantr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PRETOR04432
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750403-0273
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751128/aaaaaywa.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PRETORIA 4392
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchantr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2003 by buchantr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANGOLA IN SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS
TAGS: PINS, MILI, AO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006